

CITIZENS HEAR SCHOOL CHANGE PLAN RIDDLED

Blair and Oyster Fire Heavy Artillery at District Commissioners' Proposal.

NO FRICTION, HE SAYS

Head of Education Board Declares Present System Cannot Be Improved.

OYSTER CALLS PLAN "SHABBY"

Deplores Attempt of Political Officers "to Get Their Grasping Hands on School System."

Henry P. Blair, president of the Board of Education, denied before the Federation of Citizens' Associations last night that any grave differences of opinion have existed between the Board of Education and the Commissioners in the administration of the school system, which was given by the Commissioners as one reason why they should be handed full control of the schools.

"As far as the finances have been concerned, as far as the accuracy of school purchases is concerned, there is absolutely no difference between the Commissioners and the Board of Education that amounts to a snap," said Mr. Blair. "We don't feel hurt when the Commissioners overrule us in naming a school."

"We have our views on such matters, but if the naming of one or two schools is sufficient reason for a complete change in your school system—for it is your system, not mine—then the Commissioners' argument is a good one. If that isn't sufficient reason, then their argument is not a good one, for that is practically the only difference that exists."

Mr. Blair explained in detail the present system of expending school appropriations to show that those expenditures are as closely safeguarded as any of the other expenditures of the District government. "And," he went on, "if there is any chance for a mistake in that system, then the same chance exists for all the expenditures authorized by the Commissioners themselves."

Can't Find Better System.

"I don't know where you can find a better school system anywhere than the present one," Mr. Blair continued. "If you can get a board of education and a board of Commissioners who are willing to co-operate in seeking the best welfare of the child, for after all, that is the only thing to be sought for."

"I have difficulty in discussing the proposed change, I will frankly state, gentlemen, for I do not yet know what it is."

Mr. Blair then held up to ridicule the action of the Commissioners in amending their ideas three times before Congress within a month. Referring to the concession of Commissioner Newman before the educational subcommittee of the House District Committee, when he inserted into the original proposal a clause making it necessary to select as the director of education a man with professional qualifications for the position, Mr. Blair said:

"Think of it, gentlemen, can you conceive a body capable of appointing anybody anywhere including in its law a clause compelling them to name as schoolmaster a man fitted to fill the position?"

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Subs Try to Kill Fleeing Citizens

U. S. Minister to Serbia Says 1,000 Albanian Children Await Rescue.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

Rome, Jan. 22.—George Lorillard, American Minister to Serbia, arrived in Rome this morning from Albania. He left the Albanian coast on Tuesday.

"Conditions in Albania are frightful," said Mr. Lorillard. "Thousands are starving in the country, where they have been left behind on the roadides in the general exodus in the path of the advancing Austro-Bulgarians."

"On Monday, the day before I sailed, I helped 2,000 women and children embark on Italian steamers at San Giovanni di Medua. I heard later that Austrian submarines tried to torpedo these ships. The torpedoes were fired without warning, but they missed their targets."

"Left on the beach when these ships steamed out of the harbor were fully 1,000 children between the ages of 14 and 18. They were housed in tents to await the arrival of other ships. The people were afraid these children would fall into the hands of the Austrians and Bulgarians, as the arrival of the invading army was imminent."

Florida "East Coast" Resorts Reached by "N. Y. & Florida Special." Atlantic Coast Line, 8:45 p. m. daily. 4 times daily. 100 N. Y. Ave. N. Y. Adv.

3,373 Condemned to Death by Austrians

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

Paris, Jan. 22.—Since the beginning of the war 3,373 persons have been condemned to death in Austria-Hungary, according to Vienna newspapers. The victims are divided as follows:

Of Italian origin—In Trieste, 200; Fiume, 60; Istria, 90; Trentino, 330.

Of Slav origin—In Dalmatia, 118; Moravia, 245; Bosnia and Herzegovina, 800; Bohemia, 720; Galicia, 480; Bukovina, 330.

Hundreds of women are included in the list.

SCHOOLS' COST TO BE PROBED

House Member Seeks to Know Why District System Is So Expensive.

WILL VISIT MANY BUILDINGS TO LEARN SYSTEM'S DETAIL

District Committee May Be Called Upon to Thoroughly Investigate Local Educational Methods.

By JOSEPH P. ANNIN.

An investigation of the entire school system of the District with a view to explaining the high per capita cost of the public schools here probably will be undertaken by the Subcommittee on Education of the House District Committee.

This became known yesterday when a member of the subcommittee announced he would spend some time familiarizing himself with the details and workings of the local school system, with a view to ascertaining whether changes might be suggested. This member is a former school teacher and a veteran of public school administration.

The cost per capita of population for public education here is in the neighborhood of \$8, according to members of the District Committee.

"I think the District Committee or a subcommittee may be called upon to look into this high cost of public education," declared a member of the Subcommittee on Education yesterday. "Personally, I intend to visit a number of the schools, watch the methods of teaching as well as I may, and familiarize myself with the administration of the school system with a view to discovering the reasons for the high cost per capita expense involved."

"If I am not satisfied with such progress as I can make, I probably will seek the aid of the committee."

This member declared at the outset that he was not looking for nor expecting to unearth corruption or gross extravagance in any particular quarter. He rather expects to find a failure to take advantage of the advances in public education and the consequent economies.

Ancona Parleys Will Be Resumed

Expected U. S. Will Regard As Satisfactory Austria's Disavowal of Sinking.

State Department officials said yesterday that negotiations with Austria-Hungary for a settlement of the Ancona case, broken off by the Persia sinking, will be resumed at once.

This decision was reached after receipt of unofficial advices from Vienna that Ambassador Penfield was forwarding to Washington a note in which the Austro-Hungarian government disclaims all responsibility for the Persia sinking. The Penfield cable had not reached the department last night, but the unofficial forecasts of its contents were accepted as reliable.

Officials admitted that Austria's disclaimer of responsibility following similar action by the German government some days ago left the United States in a position where it could do nothing further toward establishing responsibility for the Persia sinking until affidavits of survivors and crew are received.

The reply of the United States government in the Ancona case, it is expected, will accept as satisfactory the Austrian government's disavowal and the explanation that the commander of the submarine has been punished and will suggest that the amount of indemnity to be paid for American who lost their lives or property when the Ancona sank shall be fixed by diplomatic negotiation.

Cave-in Kills Boys.

Mt. Holly, N. J., Jan. 22.—Crushed under a huge block of sandstone and several tons of earth that caved in upon them while they were playing in a dug-out this afternoon, Howard Powell and Ernest Street were killed and Bertram Sellers and Russell Street were so badly injured that they may not recover.

CONGRESS WANTS VOTES, NOT WAR PLANS, HE SAYS

Senator Lodge Tells Security League Reason Why Country Is Unprepared.

SCORES NAVAL BODIES

Back Bay Member Asserts Committees Involved in Munitions Squabble.

WEST WILL HEAR SPEAKERS

Organization Plans Active Fight in Stronghold of Pacifists—Mitchell Urges Summer Camps.

"Just as long as the members of Congress think there are more votes to be had in making appropriations for roads, rivers and harbors, and buildings, than there is in making appropriations to strengthen the defenses of the country, just so long will they continue to make appropriation for roads, river and harbors and buildings."

This assertion was made by Senator Henry Cabot Lodge in a speech condemning the present military condition of the United States, and its causes, at the closing banquet of the National Security League at the New Willard last night.

Blames Members of Congress.

"The blame for this condition lies at the door of Congress," he said, "and I am ready to take my blame with the rest. The gentlemen in Congress who are now standing in the way of national defense had better look out or a party will arise that will carry national defense through."

Referring to the navy, of which senatorial committee he is a member, Senator Lodge said the recent report of Admiral Fletcher, which exposed the many material weaknesses, speaks for itself. He scored both the House and Senate naval committees, which, he said, instead of building fleets to protect the United States, were busily engaged in discussing the burning question of building munition plants to keep some American private industry from making a few dollars. Continuing he said:

"Two battleships were authorized by Congress on March 13, 1915. Secretary Daniels awarded them to the New York Navy yards and the Mare Island Navy Yard. The keel of the vessel to be laid at New York will not be put down until eighteenth months after it was authorized. The keel of the other, cannot be laid until a ship now on it can be launched and Congress appropriates money to lengthen the ways. The first vessel will not be completed until four and a half years after it was authorized and nobody knows when the other will be completed."

League Is United.

"There is no difficulty in knowing the facts of the army, as we have a Secretary of War who tells us the facts. He has laid his cards on the table. He has told us that we have no army sufficient to defend the United States."

The banquet exemplified the unanimity of spirit which permeates the organization. As has been the topic of the deliberations throughout the meetings, "Preparedness" was the theme of the speakers.

Maj. George H. Putnam, of New York, assailed the lack of consistency on the part of the pacifists. Under this theory, he said, the troublesome thing that is

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Yuma Flooded as Levee Gives Way

Hundreds Left Homeless. Buildings Swept Away. Colorado River High.

Special to The Washington Herald.

Yuma, Ariz., Jan. 22.—Yuma is under from two to six feet of water tonight as the result of the breaking of the levee of the Colorado River and the overflow of the Gila River to the east of Yuma today. A number of old buildings have been crumpled by the flood.

With the breaking of the levee, a wall of water rushed down on the city, causing a panic. While trying to calm the excited residents, Mayor Charles C. Moore was stricken by an attack of heart failure and died soon afterwards. One unknown man is reported to have been drowned in the rushing waters.

Hundreds of persons are homeless. Six feet of water is standing in the San Gunetti store, the largest mercantile establishment in the city. The plant of the Morning Sun was washed away, and the city is temporarily without a newspaper.

The Colorado River is the highest on record. The levee on the California side of the river has given way and it is expected that great damage will be done to the great irrigation system of the Colorado Development Company.

Youth Is Killed When Auto Is Wrecked Against Tree

J. R. Peed Dies in Emergency Hospital from Injuries Received in Automobile Wreck—Five Others in Party Escape.

John R. Peed, 22, 1223 Irving street, northwest, one of an automobile party of six, died in Emergency Hospital last night from injuries received when the automobile was wrecked early yesterday. A coroner's inquest into the circumstances of the death will be conducted early this week.

John G. Chestnut, 36, 2667 Holmead place northwest, manager of the Indiana Flooring Company, 301 B street northwest, said to be the driver of the automobile, is held by police pending the coroner's investigation. Samuel Tucker, 22, 1336 Girard street northwest, is held as a United States witness in the case.

Three other young men, whose identity police were unable to learn from Chestnut and Tucker, police say, were members of the automobile party, but fled when the car was wrecked. Chestnut and Tucker, police add, declare they do not know who the three missing companions were.

The accident occurred in New Jersey avenue, between K and L streets. Police say the car was speeding, and have so charged Chestnut, alleged driver. The automobile swerved, ran over the curb and struck a tree. The machine had but two seats, two of the riders standing on the running board. One of these was Peed, who was thrown with great violence from the machine when it struck the tree. He was the only one injured.

Chestnut and Tucker carried Peed into the home of William Scott, 1332 New Jersey avenue, near the scene of the accident, from which he was transferred to Emergency Hospital. The accident occurred about 3 o'clock yesterday morning. Peed died at 9 o'clock last night. No bones were broken, nor was he seriously bruised. It is believed he died from shock and probable internal injuries.

Peed and Tucker, it seems, according to police, were returning from accompanying two girl friends home from a party given at Tucker's home. They met Chestnut, who was with three young friends in his automobile, police say. The fatal accident happened about two hours after they met.

Peed was employed in the ticket office at Union Station.

Avalanche of Snow Sweeps Train Over Precipice Edge

Five Persons Killed and Five Seriously Injured When Cars Are Pushed Over Embankment to Ground Below, Fall of Seventy-five Feet—Dining Car Catches Fire.

Special to The Washington Herald.

Seattle, Jan. 22.—Crashing down upon the slowly moving westbound Cascade limited train, of the Great Northern Railway, this morning near the little town of Cores, an avalanche of thousands of tons of snow and ice almost completely wrecked the train and catapulted two of the coaches over an embankment to the ground below, a sheer fall of seventy-five feet.

Five persons are known to have been killed; their bodies, as yet unidentified, having been recovered. Five others were seriously, though not fatally, injured.

Cores is about fifteen miles east of here. The accident occurred on a sweeping horseshoe curve, the ill-fated train being on the upper track and taking the turn. The avalanche struck the train about midcenter, tearing the diner and coach bodily from their couplings, and bowling them over the bank to the other

prong of the horseshoe track, seventy-five feet below.

To add to the spectacular elements of the wreck, the diner almost immediately caught fire, and, with no fire-fighting facilities at hand, the flames were left to entirely consume the car. Three of the injured occupants and the body of one of the dead were removed before the flames had gained headway, but it is known that one charred body still remains in the wreckage.

First word of the accident was received at Everett, where relief parties, including physicians, were hurriedly made up and rushed to the scene.

Immense concrete snowsheds had been installed at an expense of over a million dollars. This winter's snowfall in the Cascades has been more excessive than for many years, evidently exceeding the capacity of these big snowsheds to hold back the accumulated snows in the mountains.

MONTENEGRINS DEFEAT ENEMY

Repulse Meets Austrian Attack at Berans, Says Paris Legation.

Special Cable to The Washington Herald.

Paris, Jan. 22.—The Montenegrins, under Gen. Martinovitch, have repulsed the Austrians in severe fighting at Berans, on the Lim River, according to advices from San Giovanni di Medua.

These reports declare Gen. Martinovitch defeated an attempt to encircle his right wing, cutting off his retreat upon Scutari, and annihilated an Austrian detachment.

The King has left Montenegro to join his Queen in her exile in France. Prior to doing so, he handed over the supreme command of his troops to Gen. Martinovitch.

It is reported here that Gen. Martinovitch has ordered the complete evacuation of Montenegrin territory and will reassemble his troops with the Albanians, under Essad Pasha, for a stand against the Austrians at Scutari.

King En Route to Lyons.

An official report issued by the Montenegrin Legation here tonight says: "King Nicholas arrived at Brindisi yesterday, accompanied by Prince Peter. His majesty and the prince are en route to Lyons, where they will join the Queen and princesses."

"Prince Mirko remains in Montenegro with three members of the government to reorganize the defenses and withdraw the army which, under the command of Gen. Martinovitch, continues the struggle."

"Aided by the allies, the Montenegrin army hopes to participate in the protection of Albania, using Scutari as a base."

RUSSIANS INVEST ERZERUM.

Csar's Troops Said to Have Entered "Bulwark of Armenia."

London, Jan. 22.—The Russian forces in the Caucasus have invested Erzerum, the "bulwark of Turkish Armenia," into which the routed Ottoman army has fled, says a Central News dispatch from Petrograd.

The Russian official statement issued in the Csar's capital tonight reports the bombardment of the Erzerum forts and the continued pursuit of the disorganized Turks.

Cossacks played the principal part in this pursuit, which, at the last, took the form of a massacre.

Robbers Get \$70,000.

Stolen Mail Pouch at Iowa Station and Disappear.

Newton, Iowa, Jan. 22.—Bank drafts, and other money totaling more than \$70,000, were secured by robbers who, last night, stole a mail pouch from the railroad station here and escaped.

The pouch had been left in the station awaiting the arrival of a fast east-bound train. There is no trace of the robbers.

The loss of the pouch was first detected by a mail clerk on the train for which the package was intended. A search was then commenced, and on the outskirts of Newton the burned remnants of the pouch were found.

DEPEW SCORES WILSON POLICY

Former Senator Says Foreign Trade Can't Develop Until U. S. Offers Protection.

AVERS BUSINESS MAN CAN'T BANK ON WATCHFUL WAITING

Cites Incident Illustrating Inactivity of U. S. Officials and Resoluteness of Teuton Envoys.

New York, Jan. 22.—"There will be no foreign trade for the United States after the European war unless American citizens and American property in foreign lands can receive the unquestioned protection of this government."

"After our experience in Mexico, no American business man is going to remove his family, his fortune or himself to an alien country where he may at any moment suffer loss of life or of his worldly goods without hope of protection from the United States."

This stinging criticism of President Wilson's "watchful waiting" policy was given today by former United States Senator Chauncey M. Depew at the Republican Club. It was uttered in a discussion of "The Opportunity of the United States for World Service in Financial and Industrial Leadership."

"Sometime ago a man came into my office who had been compelled to leave Mexico because the activities of the revolutionists threatened his life and property," continued Senator Depew. "This man was an American citizen. He owned a mine in partnership with a citizen of Germany."

"When the American was ousted from his property by the warring factions, he went to the American Ambassador at Mexico City, and was told the American government could do nothing to protect either his life or his property. He appealed to the State Department at Washington with the same result."

"Later he met his German partner and asked him how his appeal to his government had fared."

"Why," said the German, 'the German Ambassador at Mexico City went to the nominal head of the Mexican government and told him that unless I was reimbursed for my losses a German fleet would sail into the Gulf of Mexico and bombard Vera Cruz.'"

"What was said to that?" asked the American.

"The Mexicans paid, and paid well," replied the German. "I have got the money in my pocket."

MOTOR TRUCK STRIKES WOMAN.

Mrs. Talbert Probably Fatally Injured in Nichols Avenue.

Mrs. Lilly Talbert, 66, 300 Third street southwest, was struck and probably fatally injured by an automobile truck operated by Herbert Johnson, 24, 227 First street northwest. The woman was taken to Casualty Hospital.

Johnson told the police that the woman appeared suddenly in the roadway of Nichols avenue in front of the main gate of the Government Hospital for the Insane and that he was unable to stop his machine before striking her. Johnson was charged with assault at the Eleventh police station.

"Uncle Joe's" Libel Suit Called.

Danville, Ill., Jan. 22.—Trial of the \$25,000 libel suit of Representative Joseph G. Cannon against the Danville Press-Democrat, Democratic newspaper, for publishing statements of former Senator Pettigrew, of South Dakota, against the former Speaker, just before the Congressional election two years ago, was called here this afternoon. The newspaper articles quoting the Senator, charged Cannon with manipulating legislation to suit his private ends.

Fine Munition Man \$500.

London, Jan. 22.—John Goodwin was fined \$500 today for proposing a deal for war munitions with New York concerns, without first asking for a permit from the government.

Rebels Beat Chinese Troops.

Pekin, Jan. 22.—A small body of government troops were defeated by rebels in the province of Yunnan, it was stated today. The rebels are moving northward.

Greek King for Martial Law.

London, Jan. 22.—An Athens dispatch to the Evening News says that King Constantine in an interview said: "If the ministers approach me concerning martial law I shall certainly approve it."

Mrs. Schott, of Newport, Dies.

Newport, R. I., Jan. 22.—Mrs. Ellen L. Schott, widow of C. Ridgely Schott, a prominent member of the cottage settlement, and formerly of Philadelphia, died at her cottage tonight from pneumonia.

VILLA SENDS WORD HE'S INNOCENT OF MASSACRE; EIGHT REPORTED SLAIN

Maj. Prieto Brings Word Across Border that Mexican Leader Will Punish Murderers Himself If He Catches Them.

AMERICANS REPORTED HANGED

Metalurgical Engineer Reaches Douglas, Ariz., with Story of Gruesome Discovery—American Merchant Shot by Carranza Soldiers in Cafe.

El Paso, Jan. 22.—"I am innocent of the massacre of the Americans killed at Santa Ysabel." This is the personal message brought direct from Francisco Villa to the American people by Maj. Teodoro Prieto, who arrived here today.

The message was handed to him by Gen. Villa at El Rucio, in western Chihuahua, five days ago, he says. Since then he has been in the saddle day and night.

According to Maj. Prieto, Villa had no knowledge of the tragedy until a week ago, when a courier arrived from the scene of the massacre to appraise him of what had taken place. Villa was furious and ordered the courier placed under arrest.

PEACE OFFERS FOR BELGIUM

Germany Likely to Suggest Making of Separate Terms, Declare Reports.

TEUTONS READY TO PAY FOR DAMAGE DONE, STATES RUMOR

Germany Would Profit in Many Ways Were Step Taken Now, It Is Shown.

Information has been received in diplomatic circles in Washington that Germany is considering making Belgium a proposal of separate peace. The evacuation of all Belgian territory would follow.

It is understood that the proposal, which will be made to King Albert by the military governor of Belgium, will include an offer to pay for the property damage caused by the German occupation.

Officials in close touch with the German Embassy expressed the opinion yesterday that the offer, if made, probably would be accepted. Belgium is not one of the signatories to the document to which Sir Edward Grey obtained the signatures of the French and Russian, and later the Italian governments, and which binds those nations not to conclude a separate peace.

The restoration of Belgium would leave the allies no room for protest, in the opinion of this authority, inasmuch as it has been this one point on which the allies have been most insistent as a condition of peace.

It can be stated authoritatively that the question of voluntarily withdrawing from all the occupied positions of Belgium—on the one condition that Belgium first consent to conclude a separate peace with the central empire—is now being carefully considered in official circles in Berlin.

Reasons for Proposal.

It is pointed out that the conclusion of such an arrangement would accrue to the advantage of Germany, for the following reasons:

1. The conclusion of a separate peace with Germany would automatically divorce Belgium from the other allies.

2. The occupation by any of the allies of any part of Belgian territory would become a violation of neutrality precisely comparable with the much-quoted violation of neutrality of which Germany has been declared guilty.

3. For the allies to commit such a breach of neutrality after having used it as an excuse for making war on Germany is too inconsistent to be possible.

4. With immunity from attack from that portion of her frontier facing Belgium, Germany would have for disposal elsewhere the vast army now actually in Belgium and in the trenches on the western portion of the battle line.

WOMAN CONFESSES MURDER.

Dying, She Says She Killed a Man in Philadelphia.

Camden, N. J., Jan. 22.—Believing herself on her death bed, Mrs. Irene Pasquale confessed in the Camden Hospital today that she killed a man in Philadelphia in 1912.

She was tried and acquitted of the murder of Andrew Boschitti on the plea that she was defending her honor.

Mrs. Pasquale and her husband are both dying of gunshot wounds inflicted Thursday, they say, by Francisco Sporti, a boarder, when Mrs. Pasquale repulsed his advances. Sporti is at large.

Ryan on Public Service Board.

Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 22.—Michael J. Ryan, of Philadelphia, Democrat, was tonight appointed Public Service Commissioner to succeed Thomas B. Smith. Republican, recently elected mayor of Philadelphia.

Ask \$25,000 to Entertain Roosevelt.

Havana, Jan. 22.—A bill introduced in the Cuban Congress appropriates \$25,000 for the entertainment of Col. Roosevelt while he is in Cuba.

United Fruit Company Wins Suit.

Philadelphia, Jan. 22.—A verdict in favor of the defendant was rendered late this afternoon by the jury in the suit of the United Fruit Company against the Sherman anti-trust law. The suit was known as the "Banana Trust" suit.

Two Steamers Sunk.

One Dutch and One British Vessel Go Down.

London, Jan. 22.—Two steamers, one Dutch and one British, were reported today as sunk.

The Britisher, the Trematon, was of 2,000 tons. Her crew was saved.

The Dutchman was the Apollo. She was sunk near the Galloper Lightship. Sixteen of her crew, four wounded, have been landed at Fushing. Three were drowned.

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